



**International
Standard**

ISO 20688-2

**Biotechnology — Nucleic acid
synthesis —**
Part 2:
**Requirements for the production
and quality control of synthesized
gene fragments, genes, and
genomes**

**First edition
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Contents

Page

Foreword	v
Introduction	vi
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Requirements for quality management	3
4.1 General requirements	3
4.2 Control of documents	4
4.3 Quality management system	5
4.4 Biorisk management and safety control	5
5 Requirements for resource management	5
5.1 Facilities and environmental condition	5
5.2 Equipment and instruments	5
5.3 Raw materials	6
5.4 Personnel	6
6 Biosafety and biosecurity requirements	6
6.1 General	6
6.2 DNA sequence screening mechanism	6
7 Requirements for quality control in production	7
7.1 General	7
7.2 Quality control in synthetic gene fragments production	7
7.2.1 General	7
7.2.2 Sequence design	7
7.2.3 Assembly	8
7.2.4 Purification	8
7.2.5 Product preservation	8
7.3 Quality control in synthetic gene production	8
7.3.1 General	8
7.3.2 Colony screening	8
7.3.3 DNA preparation from the host cell	8
7.3.4 Sequence verification	9
7.3.5 Product preservation	9
7.4 Quality control in synthetic genome production	9
7.4.1 General	9
7.4.2 Assembly	9
7.4.3 Sequence verification	9
8 Requirements for product quality	10
8.1 Synthetic gene fragments	10
8.1.1 General	10
8.1.2 Yield	10
8.1.3 Purity	10
8.1.4 Size	10
8.1.5 Gene cloning accuracy	10
8.2 Synthetic genes	10
8.2.1 General	10
8.2.2 Yield	10
8.2.3 Purity	11
8.2.4 Sequence	11
8.2.5 Integrity	11
8.2.6 Residual impurities analysis	11
8.2.7 Supercoiled plasmid	12
8.2.8 Bioburden	12

8.2.9	Specific quality indicators for synthetic DNA libraries	12
8.3	Synthetic genome	12
8.3.1	General	12
8.3.2	Sequence	12
9	Delivered/synthesized material specifications	13
9.1	Main information	13
9.2	Other information	13
Annex A (informative) Example equipment and device list and their control requirements		14
Annex B (informative) Exemplary quality measurement methods		16
Annex C (informative) Electrophoretogram		18
Annex D (informative) Sanger sequencing		22
Annex E (informative) Massively parallel sequencing		23
Annex F (informative) Additional quality control options for synthetic gene fragments		26
Annex G (informative) Example ranking of the risk posed by DNA products		28
Bibliography		29

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 276, *Biotechnology*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 20688 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Gene fragment, gene and genome synthesis refer to producing synthetic double-stranded DNA in the form of non-clonal fragments (that can be linear) and clonal genes in plasmids (that would be circular) by using appropriate biochemical methods.

Synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes are important biotechnological products and are widely used in biotechnology, e.g. protein engineering, metabolic engineering, antibody and vaccine development, environmental bioremediation and natural product discovery.

The production and quality control of the synthesized gene fragment, gene and genome products are essential for ensuring the quality and their downstream applications in biotechnology. This document provides requirements for the production and quality control of synthetic gene fragment, gene and genome products, including biosecurity, purity, yield, size, gene cloning accuracy, integrity, sequences, residual impurities and other quality indicators. This document provides a uniform general guideline for the quality control of gene fragment, gene and genome synthesis. It is intended to help to improve and ensure the quality of products and fair trade based on a unified standard.

This document is intended to be used by synthetic DNA producers during the manufacturing process for quality control to improve the quality of their products, by academic laboratories to evaluate the quality of DNA synthesized in their facilities, and by end users to verify the quality of synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes provided by manufacturers as required.

In this document, the following verbal forms are used:

- “shall” indicates a requirement;
- “should” indicates a recommendation;
- “may” indicates a permission;
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

Biotechnology — Nucleic acid synthesis —

Part 2:

Requirements for the production and quality control of synthesized gene fragments, genes, and genomes

1 Scope

This document specifies the requirements for the production and quality control of synthesized double-stranded DNA. It describes requirements for quality management, resource management, biosafety and biosecurity, quality control in production, product quality, and delivered product specifications for synthesized gene fragments, genes and genomes.

This document is applicable to synthetic gene fragments, genes and genomes with a length below 10 Mbp (base pairs) in the forms of non-clonal fragments (linear) and clonal genes in plasmids (circular).

This document does not provide specific requirements for materials used solely for diagnostic purposes.

When the synthesized nucleic acids are procured and used for diagnostic purposes, the user can take ISO 15189, ISO 13485 and other related clinical standards into account.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

biosafety

practices and controls that reduce the risk of unintentional exposure or release of biological materials

Note 1 to entry: Biological materials refer to any material comprised of, containing, or that may contain biological agents and/or their harmful products, such as toxins and allergens (see ISO 35001:2019, 3.14).

Note 2 to entry: Biological agents refer to any microbiological entity, cellular or non-cellular, naturally occurring or engineered, capable of replication or of transferring genetic material that may be able to provoke infection, allergy, toxicity or other adverse effects in humans, animals, or plants (see ISO 35001:2019, 3.13).

[SOURCE: ISO 35001:2019, 3.22, modified — Notes to entry were added.]